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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,121	11/14/2001	L. Scott Rodkey	UTSH:242USD3	4208

7590 04/08/2003

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EXAMINER
CHEU, CHANGHWA J

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ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER
1641 [REDACTED]

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/991,121	RODKEY ET AL.
	Examiner Jacob Cheu	Art Unit 1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 52-74 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 52-66 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 52-66, drawn to an apparatus comprising a chamber having an inlet port and outlet port, classified in class 422, subclass 73.
 - II. Claims 67-74, drawn to a device comprising an antigenically-active blood group, classified in class 436, subclass 520.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the apparatus in group I does not require the specific protein or peptide as claims of group II for patentability. The subcombination has separate utility such as use of test strip for determination analyte.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the search required for one group is not required for the other, therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

4. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Mark Wilson on March 13, 2003 an election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claim 52-66. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 67-74 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 60, 65 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 60, “conditions of low pH,” is vague and indefinite. It is unclear what is the threshold of “low” pH applicants refer to.

With respect claims 65, “about 0.01% to about 4%” is vague and confusing. It is unclear how applicants define the concentration of %, i.e. mole/volume, or weight/weight....etc.

Similarly, claim 66 shares the same problem as claim 65.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 52-54, 58-59 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Xia et al. (Biophysical Journal (1993) 65: 1073-1083)

Xia et al. teach determination of cellular adhesion of human blood cell by a cylindrical chamber with an inlet and outlet valve in combination with a glass coverslips immobilized with the human blood antigen B. (page 1074, Section "Adsorption of antibody on glass surfaces"; Figure 3) Xia et al. teach conducting the assay in pH around 6.5-6.8. (page 1074, Experimental Section) The device comprising a stream of suspension jet for samples to flow through, i.e. pump.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. Claims 55-57, 60, 62-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xia et al. in view of Suyama et al. and Perry (USP 5087338)

Xia et al's reference has been discussed supra but does not specifically teach immobilized Rh antigen on the glass coverslips. The reference of Xia et al also is silent in using various concentration medium buffers and optimized the related pH levels as recited in the instant claims.

Suyama et al. teach purifying Rh polypeptide from red blood cells by immobilized Rh antigen-IgG beads in a buffer containing EDTA. (page 1622, Right Col. Method and Materials Section) Further, Suyama et al. also teach applying the similar assay to study variant Rh antigens, such as D antigen and c antigen. (page 1626, Left Col., second paragraph) Perry et al. teach using zwitterionic buffers for separation of macromolecule proteins because such buffers provides a high field strength and low conductivity to preserve pH value in the process. (Col. 9, line 22-28)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the device by Xia et al. with the Rh antigens as taught by Suyama et al. and the zwitterionic buffer as taught by Perry, for study blood protein structure and function in an optimal condition. (page 1622, Left Col. Second paragraph)

With respect to claims 60, 62, 65-66, it was held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In *re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided with the device of Xia et al. with the optimal conditions of the assay, i.e. pH and concentration of buffers, since it only involves routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

11. No claim is allowed.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Cheu whose telephone number is 703-306-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 703-305-3399. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3399.

Jacob Cheu *JH-jclu*
Examiner

Art Unit 1641

April 7, 2003

L. Le
LONG V. LE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

04/07/03